

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 03729 190409Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 FBIE-00 /021 W
-----084738 190416Z /14

P 190247Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5914
USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND BY POUCH

UNCLAS WELLINGTON 03729

MANILA FOR LEGATT

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: BGEN, TN
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON BANK OF THE SOUTH
- PACIFIC IN TONGA

REF: SUVA 1144

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED A COMMERCIAL CABLE FROM A U.S. FIRM
SEEKING INFORMATION ON THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED BANK OF
THE SOUTH PACIFIC IN TONGA. TEXT READS AS FOLLOWS:

- "OUR COMPANY IS PURSUING A BUSINESS TRANSACTION
WHICH WILL INVOLVE THE BANK OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC AT
NUKU'ALOFA, TONGA. CAN YOU ASSIST US BY PROVIDING US
WITH DATA, FIGURES, AND HISTORY OF THIS BANK? IN
ADDITION, IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION REGARDING ITS
GOVERNOR, JOHN MEIER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THAT ALSO.
SINCERELY, ROBERT ADAMS, VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE,
MEC REP CO., INC., 13211 MERRIMAN ROAD, PO BOX 2808,
LIVONIA, MICHIGAN, U.S.A., TELEX NOS. 023-5546 AND
023-5702."

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2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REVIEWING THE FOLLOWING
PROPOSED REPLY AND CONVEYING IT TO MR. ADAMS IF YOU
CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE. PLEASE PROVIDE A COPY OF YOUR
REPLY TO THE EMBASSY.

- "YOUR CABLE OF JULY 5 HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE

AMERICAN EMBASSY, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR U.S. RELATIONS WITH TONGA.

- "THE BANK OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC (BSP) WAS CHARTERED BY THE KINGDOM OF TONGA IN AUGUST 1977. THE ORDINANCE CHARTERING THE BANK IS SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE TONGAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND REQUIRES THE PAYMENT IN FULL IN CASH OF AN INITIAL SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL OF US\$1 MILLION BEFORE COMMENCING BUSINESS. OUR LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT NEITHER OF THESE CONDITIONS HAS BEEN FULFILLED. THE ONLY TANGIBLE ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN BY THE BANK SO FAR HAS BEEN THE IMPORTATION TO TONGA OF FOUR PIECES OF USED EARTHMOVING EQUIPMENT WHICH WERE USED AT A CEREMONIAL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE FUA'AMOTU AIRPORT RUNWAY. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER WORK ON THE RUNWAY PROJECT SINCE THE GROUNDBREAKING.

- "THE CHIEF ORGANIZER AND GOVERNOR OF THE BSP IS JOHN HERBERT MEIER. MEIER, A FORMER HUGHES ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE, WAS INDICTED FEB. 26, 1974 BY A FEDERAL GRAND JURY IN LOS ANGELES ON THREE COUNTS OF VIOLATION 18 USC 371 (CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD) AND 26 USC 721 (TAX EVASION). WHEN HE FAILED TO APPEAR FOR TRIAL ON THE ABOVE CHARGES, MEIER WAS INDICTED FOR VIOLATION OF 18 USC 2150 (BOND DEFAULT). IN UNCLASSIFIED

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MARCH 1978, THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT FOR UTAH FOUND AGAINST MEIER IN A CIVIL ACTION BROUGHT BY THE SUMMA CORP. (FORMERLY HUGHES TOOL CO.) ACCUSING MEIER OF DIVERTING CORPORATE FUNDS TO HIS OWN USE. THE JUDGMENT ORDERED MEIER TO ACCOUNT FOR THE FUNDS RECEIVED. ON MAY 18, 1978, MEIER WAS INDICTED ON TWO COUNTS OF VIOLATION OF 18 USC 1503 (OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE) IN CONNECTION WITH A CIVIL ACTION BY SUMMA CORP.

- "IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, WE INVITE YOU TO APPLY TO THE DEPT. OF COMMERCE FIELD OFFICE, 445 FEDERAL BLDG., 231 W. LAFAYETTE ST., DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226 (TEL 313-226-3650) FOR PREPARATION OF A FULL WORLD TRADERS DIRECTORY REPORT ON THE BSP.

- "IN PROVIDING INFORMATION ON FOREIGN BUSINESS ENTITIES, WE ARE UNABLE TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMPETENCE, RELIABILITY, GOOD FAITH, FINANCIAL STANDING, OR REPUTATION OF ANY FIRM OR INDIVIDUAL. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS DRAWN FROM PUBLIC RECORDS AND PUBLISHED SOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE KINGDOM OF TONGA."

3. FOR USDOC: FULLER DETAILS OF THIS VENTURE CAN BE
OBTAINED FROM EA/PIA IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978WELLIN03729
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780295-0968
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780740/aaaabial.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 30723570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 SUVA 1144
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1949755
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON BANK OF THE SOUTH - PACIFIC IN TONGA
TAGS: BGEN, TN
To: STATE COM
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/30723570-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014